

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FLORENCE COMMUNISTS ISOLATED IN DEFEAT ON
SAKHAROV ISSUE

1. SUMMARY: FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL PASSED PSI MOTION
SUPPORTING SOVIET DISSIDENT SAKHAROV WITH SUPPORT OF DC,
PRI, PSDI, PLI AND MSI. PCI MOTION ON SUBJECT DEFEATED
BY COMBINATION OF VOTES OF ABOVE PARTIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL WITH 53 OF 60 MEMBERS PRESENT
DISCUSSED, FRIDAY OCTOBER 31, MESSAGE NOBEL LAUREATE SAKHAROV
PUBLISHED THROUGH HIS WIFE (WHO TEMPORARILY IN FLORENCE FOR
TREATMENT OF EYE CONDITION) CALLING FOR A POLITICAL AMNESTY
AND FREE CIRCULATION OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS. ISSUE GAVE NON-
COMMUNIST PARTIES ISSUE ON WHICH THEY COULD JOIN FORCES
TO EMBRASS PCI OVER ISSUES OF ITS TIES TO SOVIET UNION.

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3. PCI ON DEFENSIVE STATED PARTY 'SENSITIVE' TP PROBLEM OF DISSIDENCE IN USSR BUT CALLED THE PSI MORION AN ATTACK, WHICH FORMED PART OF ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN WHICH HAD AS ITS LONG RANGE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORKERS MOVEMENT. PCI PROPOSED OWN MOTION WHICH DEFEATED. FAR LEFT PDUP REPRESENTATIVE CRITICIZED SAKHAROV FOR BEING ISOLATED FROM SOVIET MASSES AND FOR ISSUING APPEAL Y TO CAPITALISY AND IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES, VOTED AGAINST THE PSI MOTION BUT ABSENTED HIMSELF RATHER THAN VOTE FOR OR AGAINST THE PCI MOTION.

4. PCI MAYOR GABBUGGIANI ALSO ON SPOT AND PUT FORWARD EXPLANATION FOR HIS VOTE BY EXPRESSING HIS SOLIDARITY WITH SAKHAROV ON LIMITATIONS ON LIBERTY IN USSR BUT STATED HE RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR DISCIPLINE IN BUILDING SOCIALISM IN THE USSR. HE THEN REFUSED THE DC REQUEST THAT SAKHAROV BE MADE AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF FLORENCE SINCE SUCH AN AWARD WOULD 'SPLIT THE FLORENTINE COMMUNITY'.

5. APPLAUSE GREETED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PSI MOTION VICTORY WHICH ENCOURAGED EACH OF THE PARTIES FOR DIFFERENT REASONS# THE PSI DEMONSTRATED THEIR INDEPENDENCE OF THE PCI AND GAVE EXAMPLE OF THE 'ALTERNATIVE' THEY ARE TRYING TO FASHION# THE OLD CENTER LEFT REGROUPED TO PROVIDE THE PCI WITH ITS FIRST DEFEAT AFTER THE JUNE 15 ELECTIONS AND THE PLI AND MSI WERE ABLE TO BE COUNTED AMONG THE WINNERS.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE SAKHAROV ISSUE HAS LITTLE DIRECT BEARING ON FLORENCE, IT IS AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL VICTORY FOR THE NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO THE PCI AND TO THEMSELVES THAT THE COMMUNISTS NEED NOT HAVE THEIR OWN WAY IN CITY HALL. WHILE SUCH A VICTORY SHOULD NOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED, ITS IMPORTANCE LIES IN SHOWING THE NON-UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNIST PARTIES THAT IF THEY CAN FIND THE RIGHT ISSUE AND SUBMERGE THEIR RIVALRIES, THERE IS THE CHANCE OF VICTORY. THE DC BY GIVING THE PSI THE CHANCE TO PLAY THE LEADING ROLE IN THIS MINI-DRAMA SET THE PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE ACTIONS ALONG THE SAME LINE.
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